

the opportunity for clear views of scoter bills in the past as they were always bobbing in the waves off-shore in the normal wind conditions found at East Point. This year we were greeted by gentle ripple conditions and the brilliance of the Surf Scoter's bill. The second surprise came when a Ruby-crowned Kinglet flew in to shore and landed on the ropes between the fence posts at the light house. It came closer and closer to us, until it was flitting about our heads within a few feet. Then it landed momentarily on the scope handle inches from my hand. What a view!

From East Point we wandered along Route 16 adding shorebirds, marsh ducks, and kingfisher to our list at North Lake. The sound of a Catbird's song at Priest came as a surprise and the bird was right beside the truck. An attempt to locate the Sharp-tailed Grouse at Cable Head East was unsuccessful but we spend some fascinating time sorting out a thick billed bird searching for food in the crowberry. It was a Lapland Longspur. We also located two Caspian Terns but were confused for a while by the very dark mantle and white forehead of one of these birds.

The path from Cable Head led via Red Head, through St. Peter's Bay to St. Andrews, and then to Mount Stewart, Afton Road, Deroche Pond and Tracadie Harbour. A stop at Long Pond yielded a Common Goldeneye and Ring-necked Ducks.

As the sun settled and obscured our vision we tried first for Short-eared owls then sought out feeders hoping for doves, blackbirds or finches. Our last species for the day was a Mourning Dove flying across the Brackley Point Road. The day concluded with 78 species, down from last year's ninety species. The total list is provided below:

Common Loon	Gray Partridge	Blue Jay
Red-throated Loon	Black-bellied Plover	Common Raven
Pied-billed Grebe	Common Snipe	American Crow
Northern Gannet	Greater Yellowlegs	Black-capped Chickadee
Great Cormorant	Lesser Yellowlegs	Boreal Chickadee
Double-crested Cormorant	White-rumped Sandpiper	Red-breasted Nuthatch
Great Blue Heron	Least Sandpiper	Gray Catbird
Canada Goose	Dunlin	American Robin
Mallard	Semipalmated Sandpiper	Golden-crowned Kinglet
American Black Duck	Sanderling	Ruby-crowned Kinglet
Green-winged Teal	Iceland Gull	European Starling
Blue-winged Teal	Greater Black-back Gull	Northern Parula Warbler
American Wigeon	Herring Gull	Yellow Warbler
Wood Duck	Ring-billed Gull	Yellow-rumped Warbler
Ring-necked Duck	Bonaparte's Gull	Common Yellowthroat
Common Goldeneye	Common Tern	House Sparrow
Common Eider	Caspian Tern	Purple Finch
White-winged Scoter	Rock Dove	American Goldfinch
Surf Scoter	Mourning Dove	Savannah Sparrow
Black Scoter	Great Horned Owl	Northern Junco
Red-breasted Merganser	Barred Owl	Chipping Sparrow
Sharp-shinned Hawk	Northern Saw-whet Owl	White-throated Sparrow
Red-Tailed Hawk	Belted Kingfisher	Swamp Sparrow
Bald Eagle	Northern Flicker	Song Sparrow
Northern Harrier	Horned Lark	Lapland Longspur
Peregrine Falcon	Gray Jay	
Merlin		

Thanks to the generosity of our many sponsors, just over \$900 was raised towards the Island Nature Trust's purchase of a 157 acres natural area on the Trout River in Coleman, P.E.I. The Trust is committed to paying just over \$6,000 per year for the next eight years to pay for this property.